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THE DEATH OF VERMIN PART 2
the SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN™
30TH ANNIVERSARY 1962 1992
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, STUDENT PETER PARKER GAINED THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH AND AGILITY OF AN ARACHNID! ARMED WITH HIS WONDROUS WEB-SHOOTERS, THE RELUCTANT SUPER HERO STRUGGLES WITH SINISTER SUPER-VILLAINS, MAKING ENDS MEET, AND MAINTAINING SOME SEMBLANCE OF A NORMAL LIFE!

# Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!™

The average person has nightmares...
...serious nightmares...
...very infrequently.
I'm not talking about a disturbing dream that you remember with a shudder the next morning...
...but the kind where you wake up in the middle of the night, screaming.
Or desperately trying to.
Where your entire body becomes a block of fear...
...and you just lie there...
...paralyzed...

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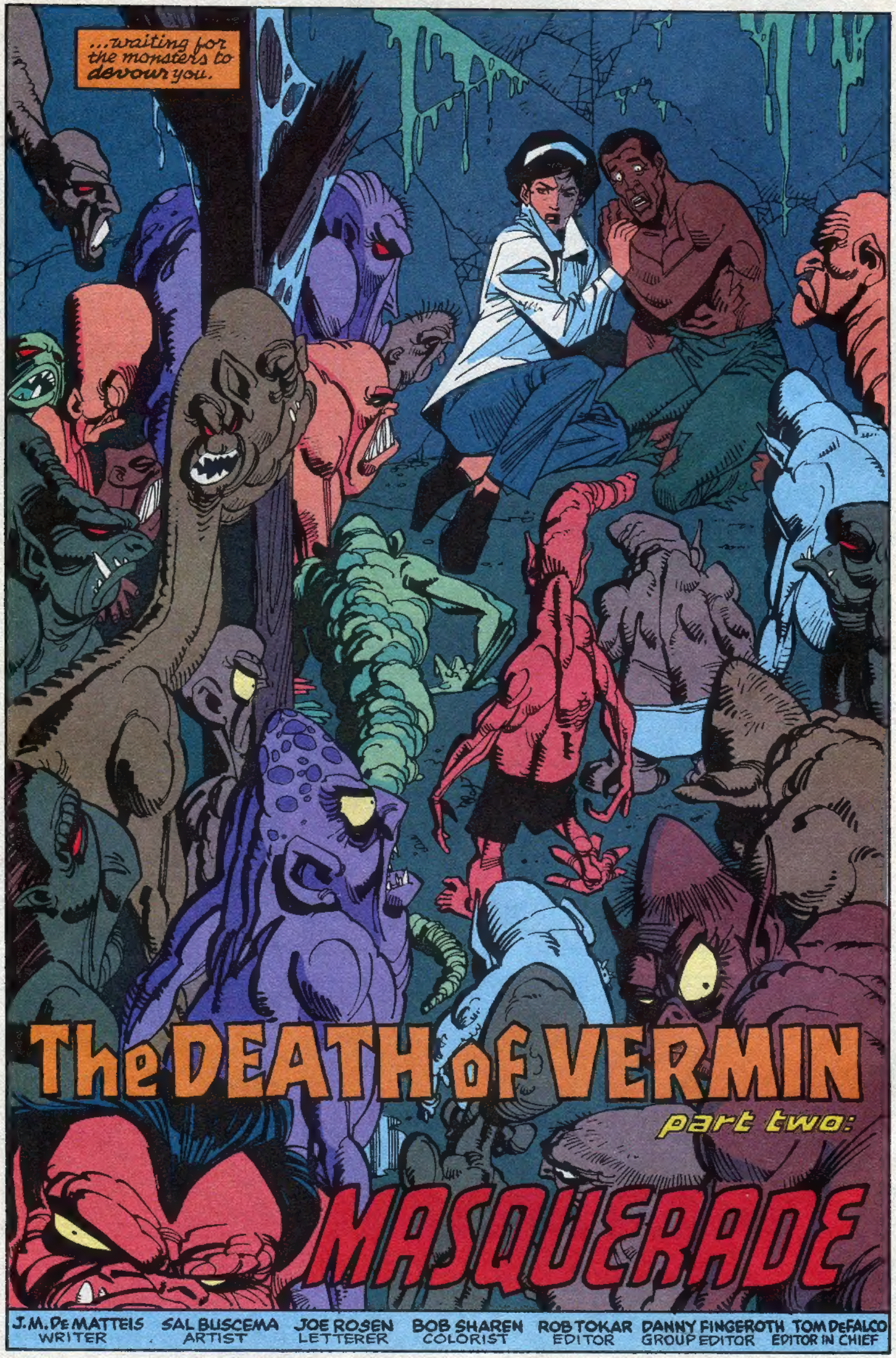


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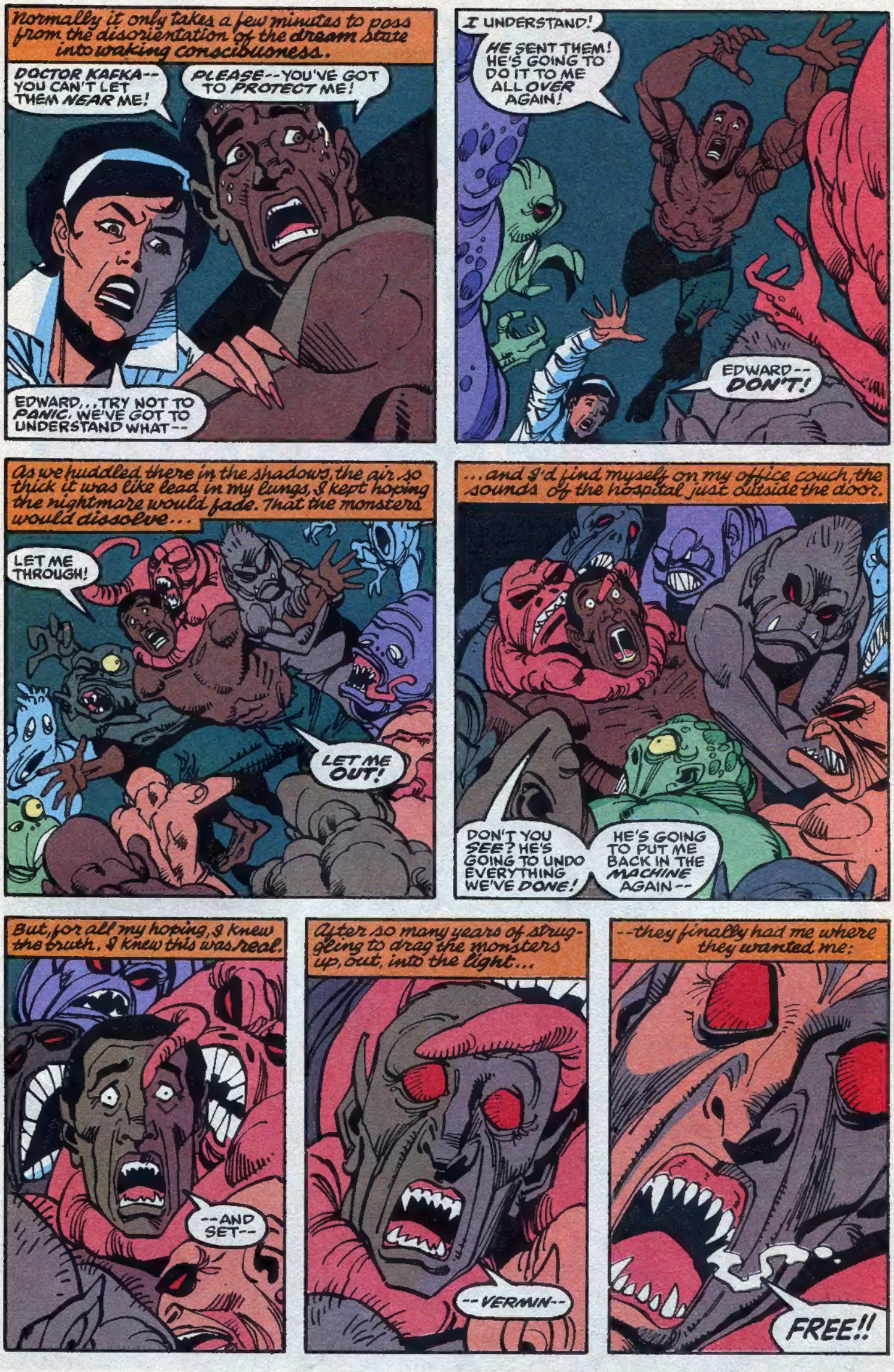
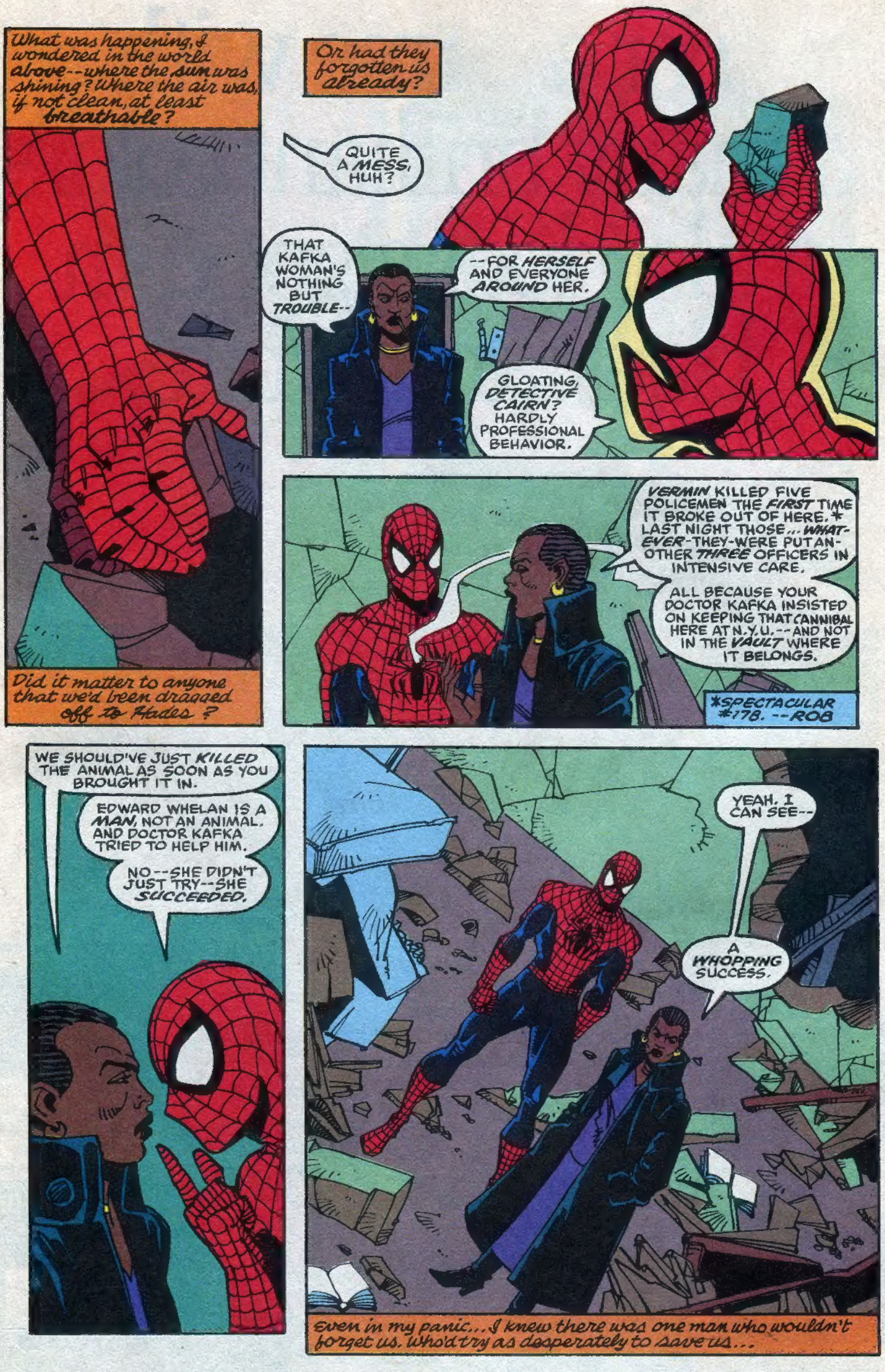
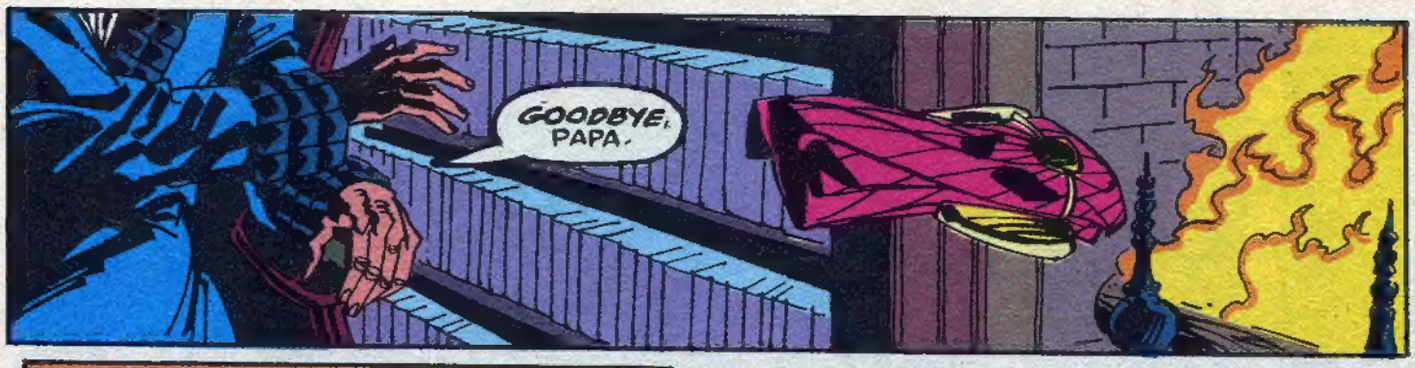

Normally it only takes a few minutes to pass from the disorientation of the dream state into waking consciousness.
DOCTOR KAFKA--YOU CAN'T LET THEM NEAR ME!
PLEASE--YOU'VE GOT TO PROTECT ME!
EDWARD,..TRY NOT TO PANIC. WE'VE GOT TO UNDERSTAND WHAT--
I UNDERSTAND!
HE SENT THEM! HE'S GOING TO DO IT TO ME ALL OVER AGAIN!
EDWARD--DON'T!
As we huddled there in the shadows, the air so thick it was like lead in my lungs, I kept hoping the nightmare would fade. That the monsters would dissolve...
LET ME THROUGH!
LET ME OUT!
...and I'd find myself on my office couch, the sounds of the hospital just outside the door.
DON'T YOU SEE? HE'S GOING TO UNDO EVERYTHING WE'VE DONE!
HE'S GOING TO PUT ME BACK IN THE MACHINE AGAIN--
But, for all my hoping, I knew the truth. I knew this was real.
--AND SET--
After so many years of struggling to drag the monsters up, out, into the light...
--VERMIN--
--they finally had me where they wanted me:
FREE!!

down in the dark.


What was happening, I wondered in the world above--where the sun was shining? Where the air was, if not clean, at least breathable?
Did it matter to anyone that we'd been dragged off to Hades?
Or had they forgotten us already?
QUITE A MESS, HUH?
THAT KAFKA WOMAN'S NOTHING BUT TROUBLE--
--FOR HERSELF AND EVERYONE AROUND HER.
GLOATING, DETECTIVE CAIRN? HARDLY PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR.
VERMIN KILLED FIVE POLICEMEN THE FIRST TIME IT BROKE OUT OF HERE.* LAST NIGHT THOSE... WHATEVER-THEY-WERE PUT ANOTHER THREE OFFICERS IN INTENSIVE CARE.
ALL BECAUSE YOUR DOCTOR KAFKA INSISTED ON KEEPING THAT CANNIBAL HERE AT N.Y.U.--AND NOT IN THE VAULT WHERE IT BELONGS.
*SPECTACULAR #178. --ROB
WE SHOULD'VE JUST KILLED THE ANIMAL AS SOON AS YOU BROUGHT IT IN.
EDWARD WHELAN IS A MAN, NOT AN ANIMAL. AND DOCTOR KAFKA TRIED TO HELP HIM.
NO--SHE DIDN'T JUST TRY--SHE SUCCEEDED.
YEAH. I CAN SEE--
A WHOPPING SUCCESS.
Even in my panic... I knew there was one man who wouldn't forget us. Who'd try as desperately to save us...

...as I'd been trying to save Edward.
WALKING OUT IN A HUFF, HUH? THAT'S RIGHT. YOU SUPER HEROES DON'T NEED US DUMB OL' COPS.
YOU'LL JUST GO OUT THERE AND SAVE THE WORLD WITHOUT US.
But as good and decent and caring as Spider-Man was (is)... as much as I wanted to depend on him...
...I knew I couldn't let myself. I learned at a very young age that I couldn't depend on anyone but myself.
SLAM
YEAH--
--YOU HAVE A NICE DAY, TOO.
If the world was flying apart, if the monsters were swarming, then it was up to me to set it right.
After all, wasn't I the great Ashley Kafka?
WHAT A DELICATE THING: SMOOTH, WHITE, FLAWLESS.
The celebrated therapist who leads minds out of chaos and restores them to order?
WHEN I WAS A YOUNG MAN, THE GIRLS OFTEN COMMENTED ON MY HANDS. "HOW BEAUTIFUL THEY ARE, HELMUT. SUCH LONG FINGERS. SUCH SOFT SKIN."
BEAUTY? DELICACY? WERE SUCH WORDS EVER USED TO DESCRIBE ME?
PERHAPS THEY WERE ...ONCE.
Maybe this was a nightmare... but I'd survived worse. And I'd survive this. I'd take care of Edward the same way I'd taken care of my kid sister, Norma.
MAMA THOUGHT I WAS THE LOVELIEST CHILD THAT EVER LIVED. AND PAPA...?
I NEVER REALLY KNEW WHAT HE THOUGHT... DID I? AS MUCH AS I PROJECTED THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS ONTO HIM, PAPA WAS ALWAYS HIDING--
--BEHIND HIS MASK.
Then the thought reared up like a cobra: Norma is dead! you didn't help her! Norma is--

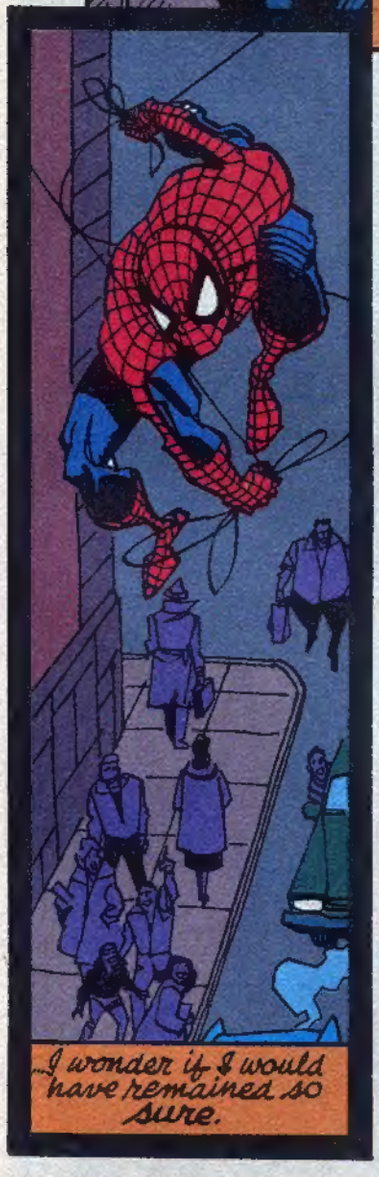



I really had to work to center myself. No time for panic. No time for hysteria. That was Mother's style, not yours.

Deal with the monsters like you always have. You can fix this. You can make it right.

If I'd known about the other monster...the creature who'd given birth to the ones that swarmed around me, down there in the dark...

...if I'd known that he would be among us soon, spreading his madness, infecting even me...

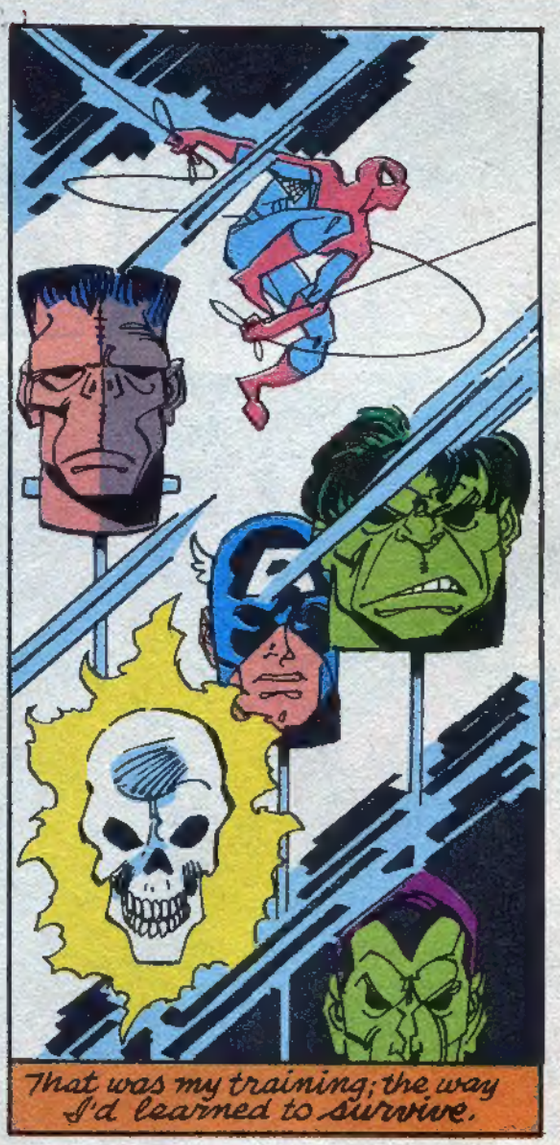


...I wonder if I would have remained so sure.

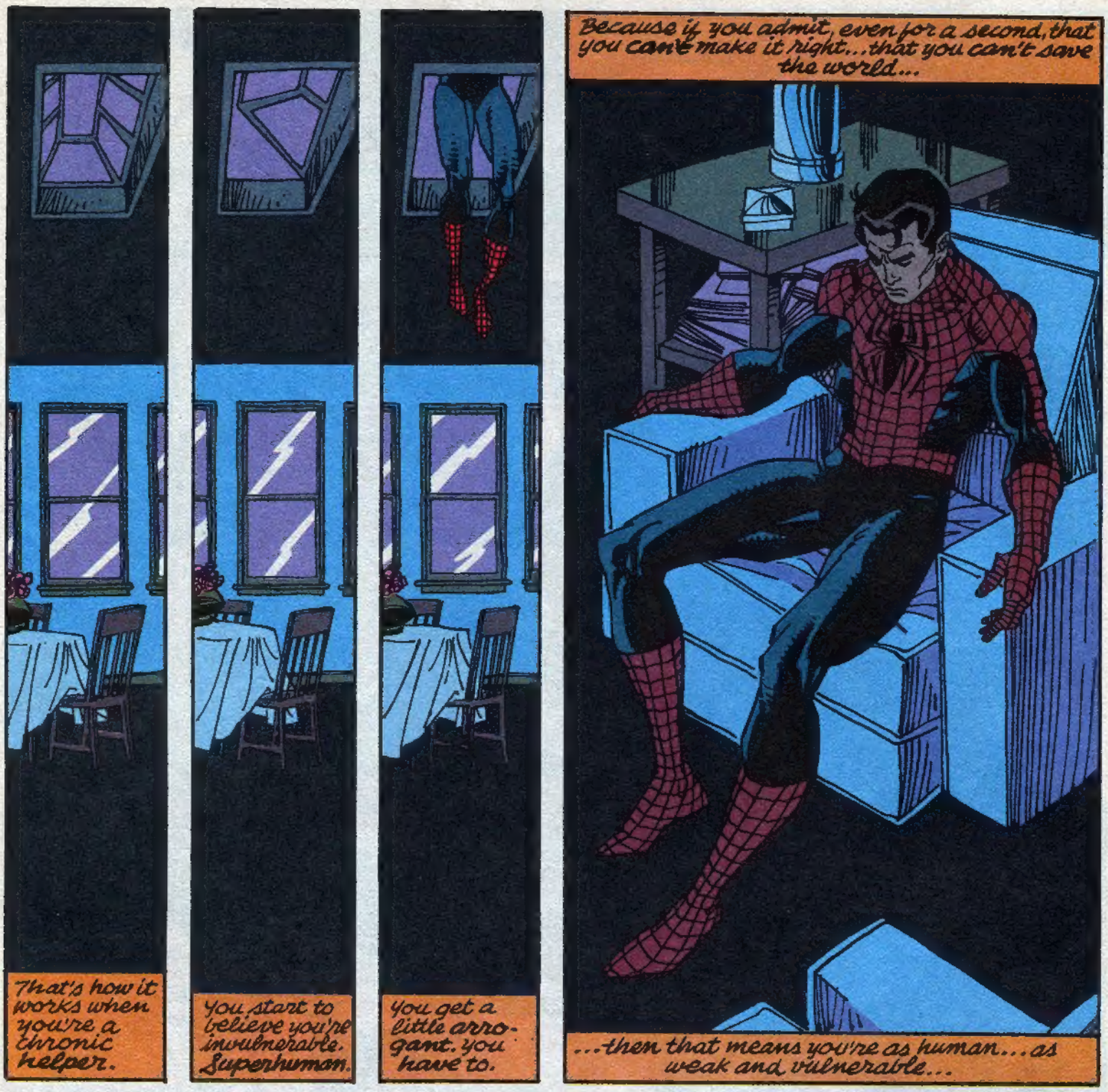
Stan's

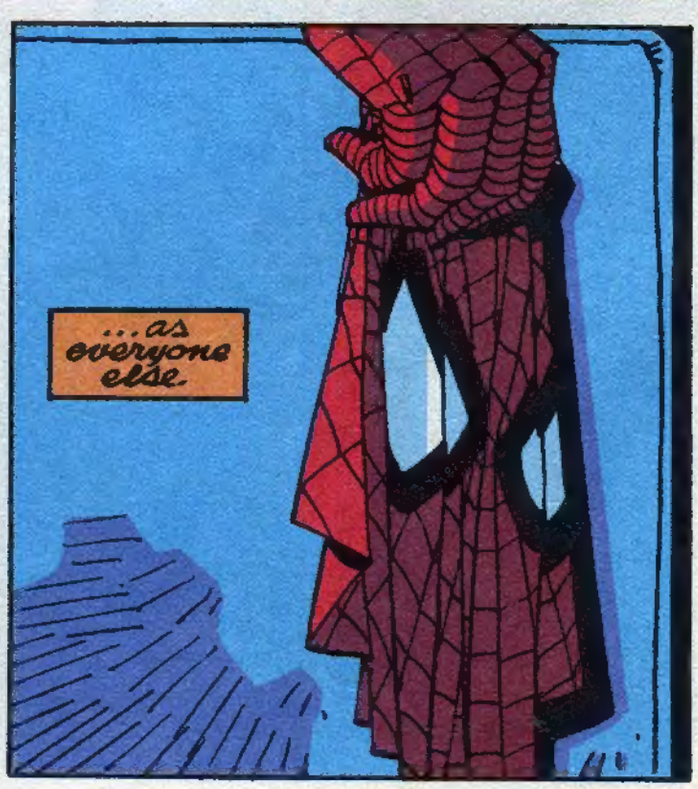
# COSTUMES

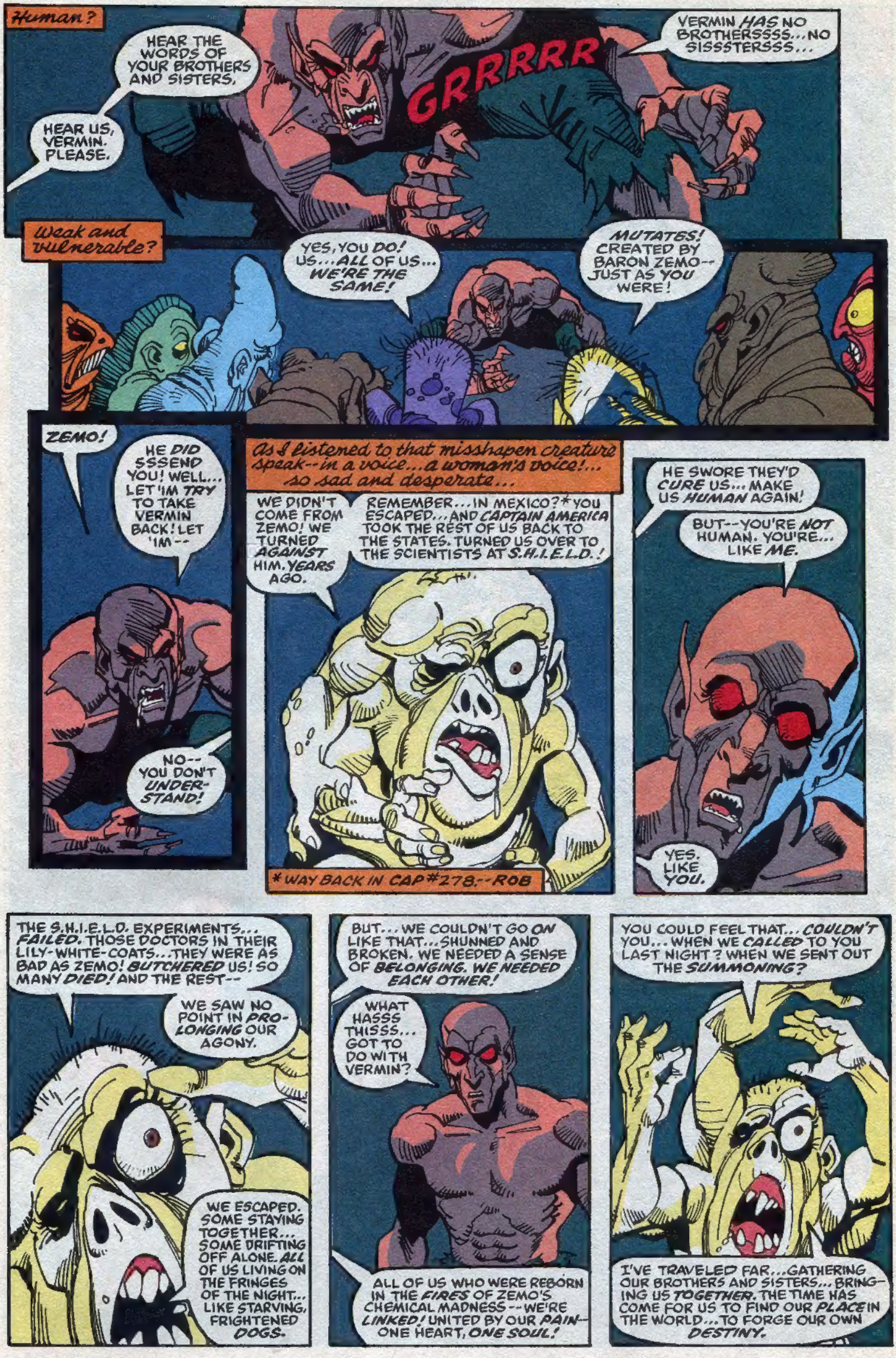
Probably.



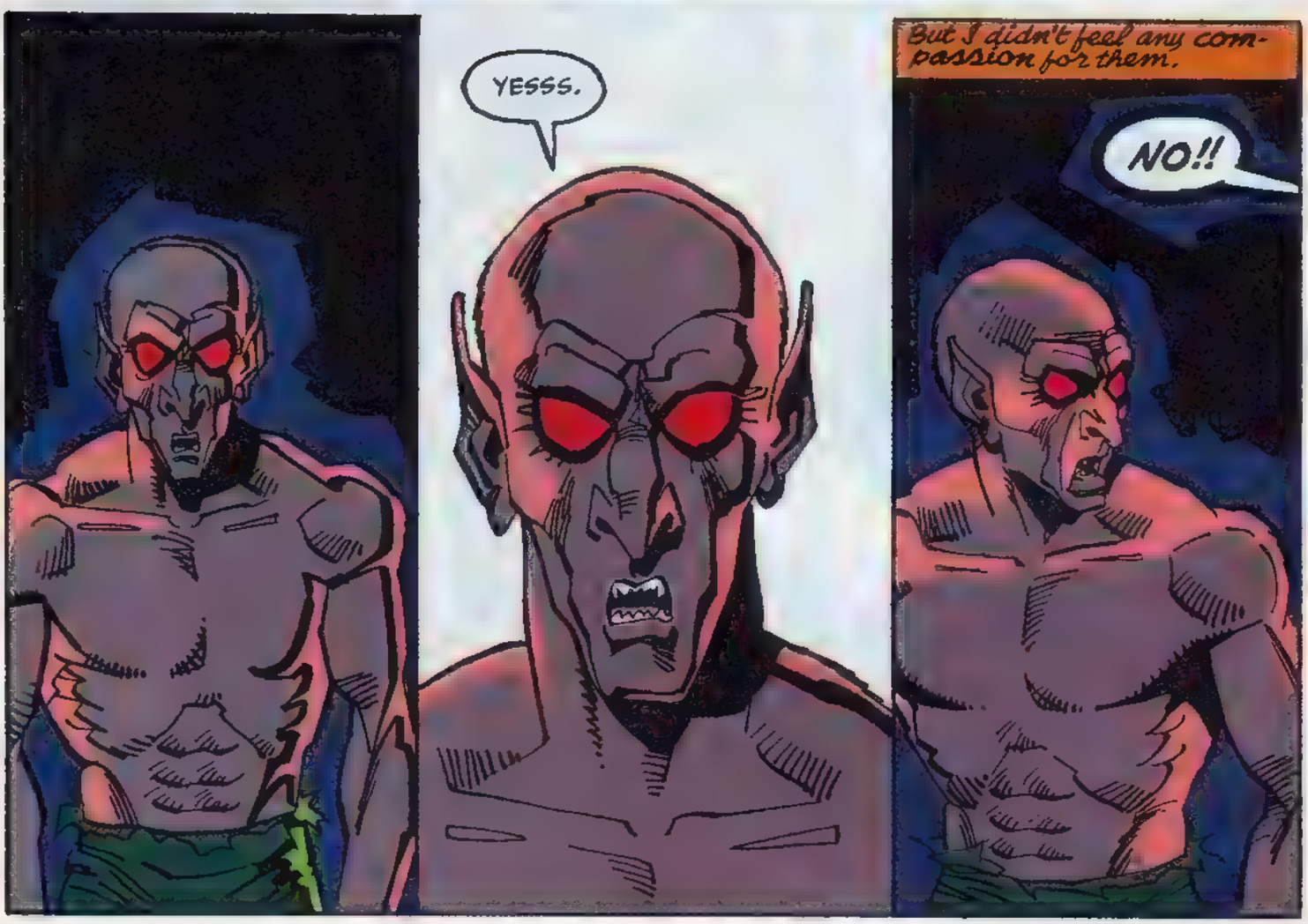
That was my training; the way I'd learned to survive.


That's how it works when you're a chronic helper.
You start to believe you're invulnerable. Superhuman.
You get a little arrogant. you have to.
Because if you admit, even for a second, that you can't make it right... that you can't save the world...
...then that means you're as human... as weak and vulnerable...

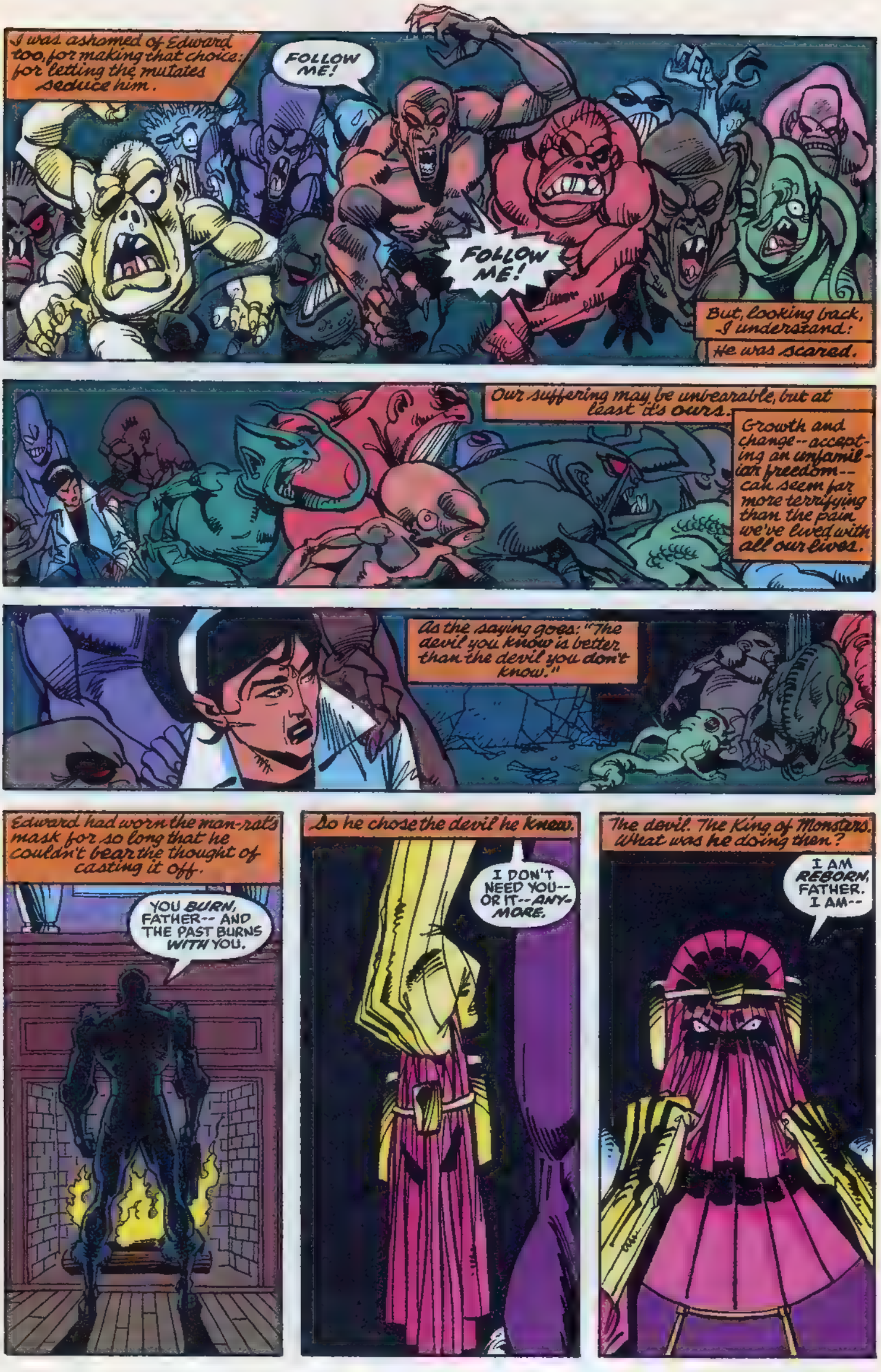

...as everyone else.


Human?
HEAR THE WORDS OF YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS.
HEAR US, VERMIN. PLEASE.
GRRRRR
VERMIN HAS NO BROTHERSSSS...NO SISSSTERSSS...
Weak and vulnerable?
YES, YOU DO! US...ALL OF US... WE'RE THE SAME!
MUTATES! CREATED BY BARON ZEMO--JUST AS YOU WERE!
ZEMO!
HE DID SSSEND YOU! WELL... LET 'IM TRY TO TAKE VERMIN BACK! LET 'IM--
NO--YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND!
As I listened to that misshapen creature speak--in a voice...a woman's voice!... so sad and desperate...
WE DIDN'T COME FROM ZEMO! WE TURNED AGAINST HIM. YEARS AGO.
REMEMBER...IN MEXICO?* YOU ESCAPED...AND CAPTAIN AMERICA TOOK THE REST OF US BACK TO THE STATES. TURNED US OVER TO THE SCIENTISTS AT S.H.I.E.L.D.!
* WAY BACK IN CAP #278.--ROB
HE SWORE THEY'D CURE US... MAKE US HUMAN AGAIN!
BUT--YOU'RE NOT HUMAN. YOU'RE... LIKE ME.
YES. LIKE YOU.
THE S.H.I.E.L.D. EXPERIMENTS... FAILED. THOSE DOCTORS IN THEIR LILY-WHITE-COATS...THEY WERE AS BAD AS ZEMO! BUTCHERED US! SO MANY DIED! AND THE REST--
WE SAW NO POINT IN PRO-LONGING OUR AGONY.
WE ESCAPED. SOME STAYING TOGETHER... SOME DRIFTING OFF ALONE. ALL OF US LIVING ON THE FRINGES OF THE NIGHT... LIKE STARVING, FRIGHTENED DOGS.
BUT...WE COULDN'T GO ON LIKE THAT...SHUNNED AND BROKEN. WE NEEDED A SENSE OF BELONGING. WE NEEDED EACH OTHER!
WHAT HASSS THISSS... GOT TO DO WITH VERMIN?
ALL OF US WHO WERE REBORN IN THE FIRES OF ZEMO'S CHEMICAL MADNESS--WE'RE LINKED! UNITED BY OUR PAIN--ONE HEART, ONE SOUL!
YOU COULD FEEL THAT... COULDN'T YOU... WHEN WE CALLED TO YOU LAST NIGHT? WHEN WE SENT OUT THE SUMMONING?
I'VE TRAVELED FAR...GATHERING OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS... BRINGING US TOGETHER. THE TIME HAS COME FOR US TO FIND OUR PLACE IN THE WORLD...TO FORGE OUR OWN DESTINY.

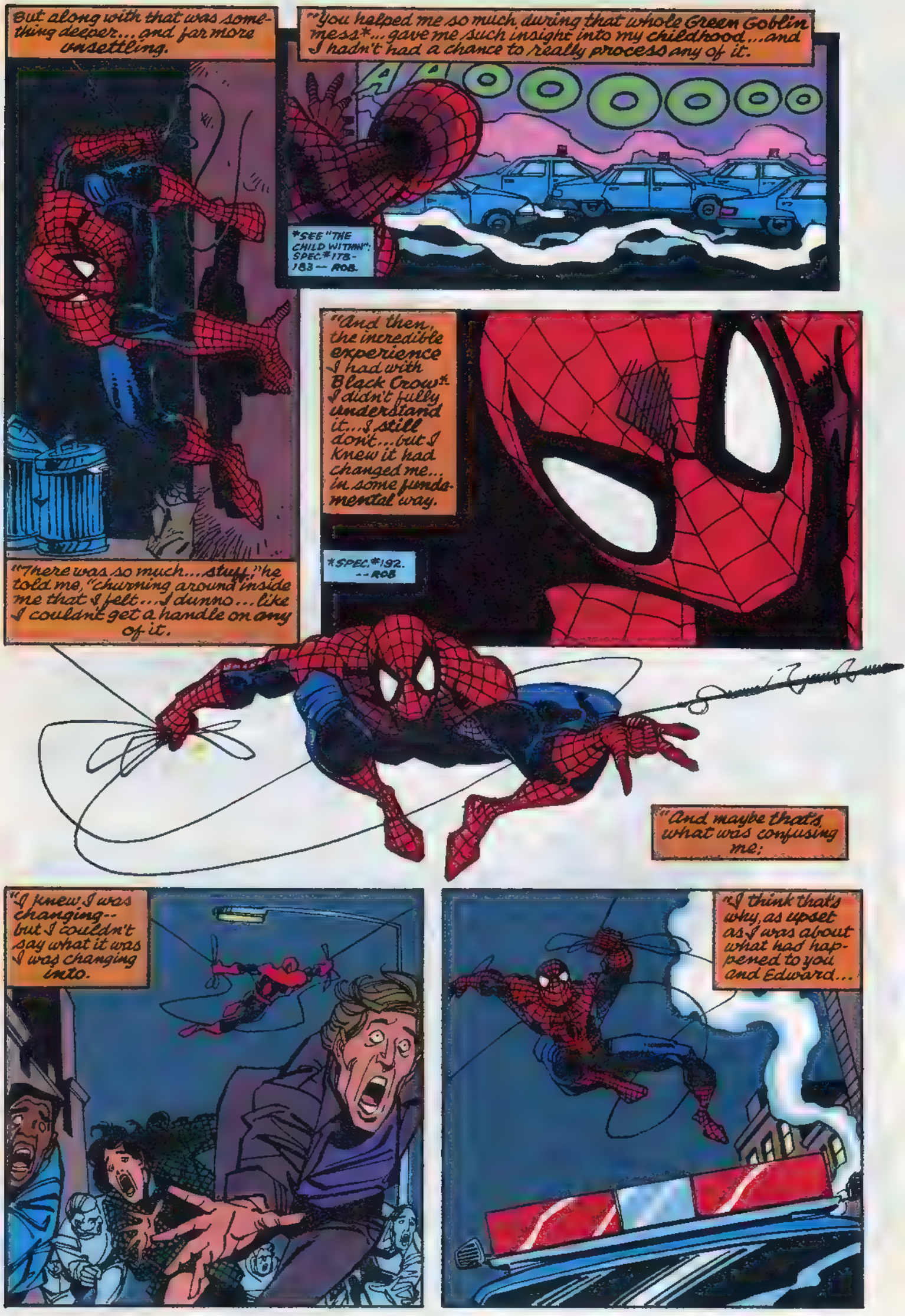
I realized that these "monsters" were no less human than Edward.
BUT, TO DO THAT, WE NEED A LEADER. SOMEONE STRONG AND, UNYIELDING-- TO TEACH US HOW TO SURVIVE.
YOU, VERMIN!
YOU!
YOU!
YOU!
YOU!
YOU!
YOU!
WILL YOU DO IT? WILL YOU SHOW US THE WAY?


YESSS.
But I didn't feel any compassion for them.
NO!!

Just disgust.
EDWARD... LISTEN TO ME! THEY WANT TO TAKE YOU BACK... DRAG YOU DOWN WITH THEM! DON'T LET THEM DO IT!
YOU'RE SO CLOSE! VERMIN'S DYING! YOU'RE ALMOST FREE!
NOT EDWARD... VERMIN!
YOU
ARE
EDWARD!
VERMIN'S DAY HAS PASSED! YOU DON'T NEED HIM TO PROTECT YOU ANY MORE!
YOU'RE NOT THE LITTLE BOY YOUR FATHER ABUSED--
--AND YOU'RE NOT THE CONFUSED AND FRIGHTENED MAN THAT ZEMO CORRUPTED!
YOU'RE BECOMING WHOLE, EDWARD... FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YOUR LIFE! SO, PLEASE-- DON'T BE AFRAID... DON'T HIDE BEHIND VERMIN!
LET HIM GO. LET HIM DIE.
RARRGGHH!
I OUGHTTA CUT YOUR THROAT! I OUGHTTA EAT YOU ALIVE!
BUT... YOU'VE BEEN KIND TO USSS... SSSO I'LL LET YOU LIVE.
FOR NOW.
I was so ashamed of what I was feeling, that a part of me wished he would kill me... right then and there.

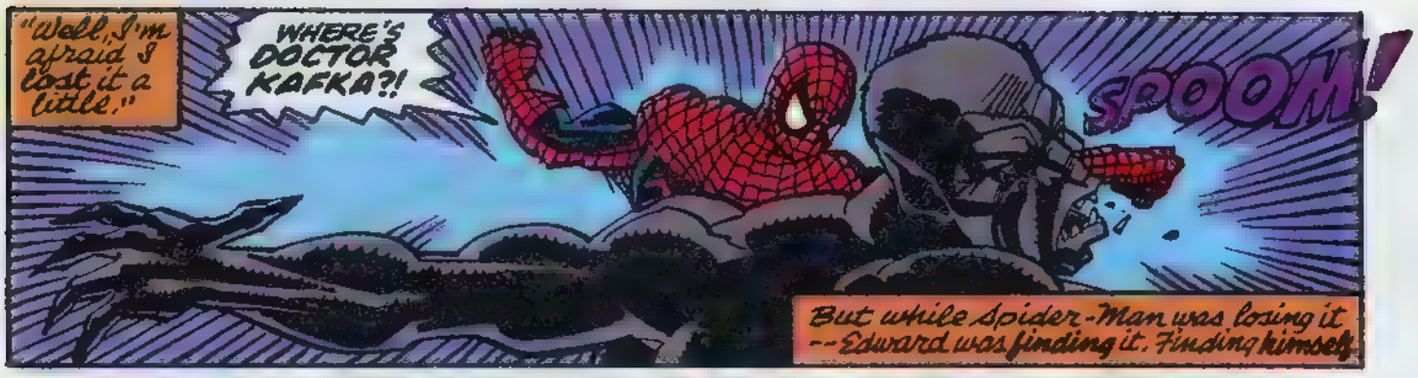

I was ashamed of Edward too, for making that choice: for letting the mutates seduce him.
FOLLOW ME!
FOLLOW ME!
But, looking back, I understand:
He was scared.
Our suffering may be unbearable, but at least it's ours.
Growth and change--accepting an unfamiliar freedom--can seem far more terrifying than the pain we've lived with all our lives.
As the saying goes: "The devil you know is better than the devil you don't know."
Edward had worn the man-rat's mask for so long that he couldn't bear the thought of casting it off.
YOU BURN, FATHER-- AND THE PAST BURNS WITH YOU.
So he chose the devil he knew.
I DON'T NEED YOU-- OR IT--ANY-MORE.
The devil. The King of Monstars. What was he doing then?
I AM REBORN, FATHER. I AM--

HA-HA-HA-HA!!
OLD HABITS DIE HARD, FATHER.
I BURN YOUR MASK--YET CLING TO MY OWN.
OLD HABITS DIE HARD.
BUT THEY DIE.
Did he sense that, before the night was through, his life would be irrevocably altered...
...along with Edward's... and mine...
...and Spider-Man's?
I can only guess about the King of Monsters--but I know about Spider-Man.
We've talked at length about that night--and everything he was going through.
He was feeling guilty, as usual. Responsible. Worrying about Edward and me...berating himself for not being there when the mutates took us
He'd had a few hours of rest, at least... after all he'd been through he needed it... and he was even feeling guilty about that

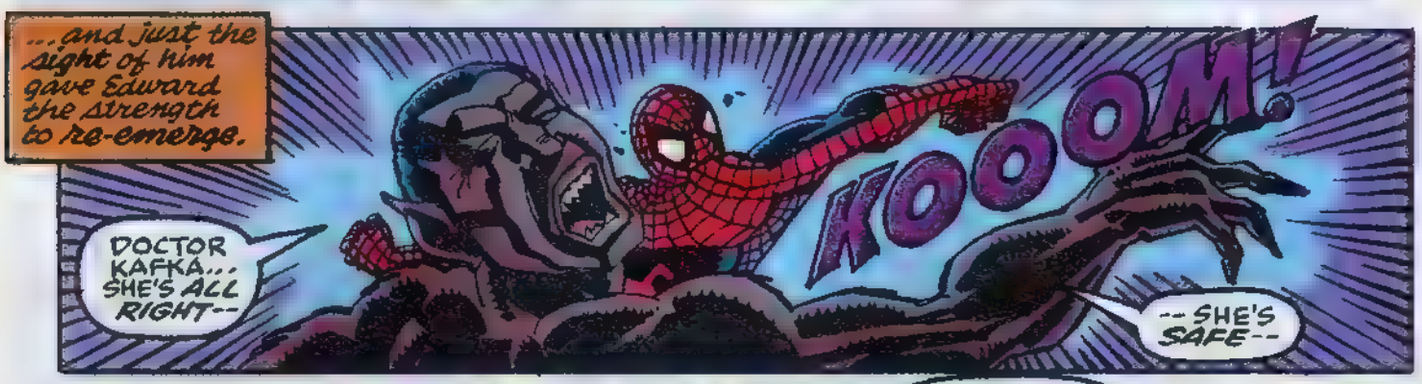

But along with that was something deeper... and far more unsettling.
"You helped me so much during that whole Green Goblin mess*... gave me such insight into my childhood... and I hadn't had a chance to really process any of it.
*SEE "THE CHILD WITHIN": SPEC.#178-183 — ROB.
"There was so much... stuff," he told me, "churning around inside me that I felt... I dunno... like I couldn't get a handle on any of it.
"And then, the incredible experience I had with Black Crow*. I didn't fully understand it... I still don't... but I knew it had changed me... in some fundamental way.
*SPEC.#192. --ROB
"And maybe that's what was confusing me:
"I knew I was changing-- but I couldn't say what it was I was changing into.
"I think that's why, as upset as I was about what had happened to you and Edward...

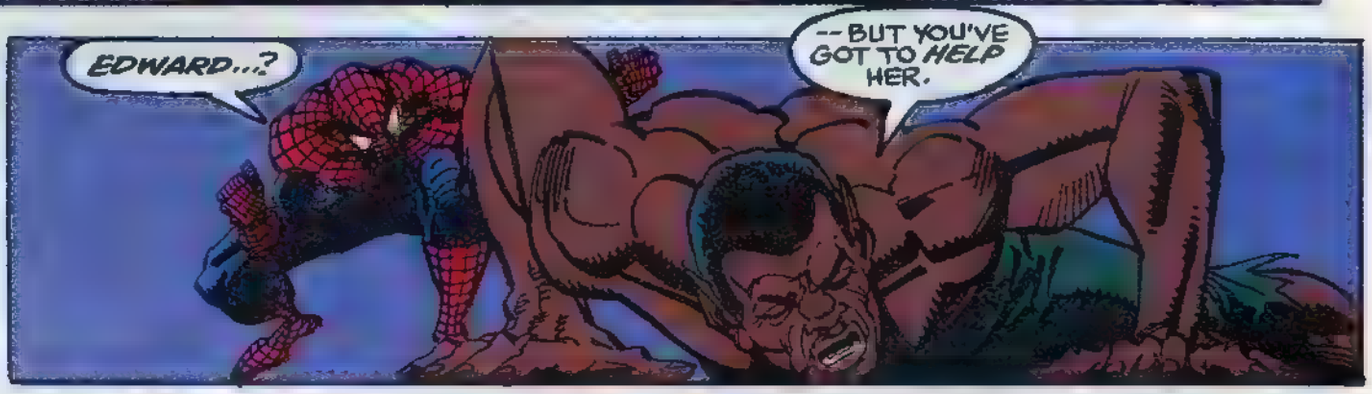
"...I was glad to have the distraction.
OPEN

"Although, when I came upon Vermin and his army of mutates ransacking that market up on West 70th...
B
A
M!
"...I got a little more distraction than I'd bargained for."
He'd studied the files on Vermin...so he knew all about Zemo and the mutates...and, once he made the connection...
KROOM
...he really started to worry. "If Edward had become Vermin again...if he'd somehow hooked himself up with these creatures...
BLAM!
BLAM!
"...then what had happened to you, Doc?
ROK
KK
SSSPIDER!!!
HATEYOU-HATEYOU-HATEYOU!
"I started imagining all kinds of awful scenarios...
WHERE IS SHE, VERMIN?
KRAK
OW!
"And, when you add in the psychic poison that Vermin emits...stimulating all the darker emotions--


"Well, I'm afraid I lost it a little."
WHERE'S DOCTOR KAFKA?!
SPOOM!
But while Spider-Man was losing it --Edward was finding it. Finding himself.

Vermin might have loathed Spider-Man... but to Edward, the wall-crawler was a symbol of hope...
SP-KO-W!
I SWEAR TO YOU, VERMIN--IF YOU'VE DONE ANYTHING TO HER, I'LL--


...and just the sight of him gave Edward the strength to re-emerge.
KOOOM!
DOCTOR KAFKA... SHE'S ALL RIGHT--
--SHE'S SAFE--


EDWARD...?
--BUT YOU'VE GOT TO HELP HER.

YOU KNOW WHERE SHE IS?
YES! I CAN TAKE YOU TO HER. BUT... THE MUTATES--
THEY WERE FOLLOWING VERMIN. DO YOU THINK THEY'LL LISTEN TO YOU?

...NO...

I may not know the face behind Spider-Man's mask, but I know the heart.
And I know how torn he must have been.
Aware that the mutates were just as much victims of abuse as Edward...
...and yet balancing his compassion with the need to stop them from hurting anyone else.
There are other so-called heroes out there who wouldn't have thought twice about it...
...who would have murdered those mutates without even a twinge of conscience.
But Spider-Man's the kind of hero who bleeds even for his enemies...
...who understands their pain, even as he opposes them.
Did that understanding work against him? Did he, perhaps, hesitate...just enough...to allow them the upper hand...

...Or would they have won anyway?
SPIDER-MAN...?
SPIDER-MAN--ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
SURE.
HAVEN'T FELT THIS GOOD... SINCE KRAVEN THE HUNTER BURIED ME ALIVE.
WHERE ARE WE?
IN THE K-K-KINGDOM... OF THE C-C-CURSED.
OH. THANKS FOR CLEARING THAT UP.
YOU FIND THIS AMUSING? WE'LL CHANGE THAT SOON ENOUGH.
ALL YOU MEN IN MASKS...YOU THINK YOU'RE ABOVE US. YOU THINK YOU CAN USE US--LIKE LABORATORY RATS!
ZEMO STOLE OUR HUMANITY. CAPTAIN AMERICA LIED TO US. AND, YOU--
--YOU MOCK US!
NOW, WAIT A MINUTE. I DIDN'T--
SHUT UP!
WE'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOU MEN IN MASKS... AND DOCTORS--HIDING BEHIND WHITE COATS!
THAT'S WHY WE BROUGHT YOU BOTH HERE. IT'S TIME WE REPAID YOU MASKS AND WHITE-COATS FOR ALL YOU'VE DONE TO US.
SPIDER-MAN... DOCTOR KAFKA--IT'S TIME TO DIE.

# BULLPEN BULLETINS

MARVEL COMICS

## STAN'S SOAPBOX

Hi, Heroes!

You know the way our Chinese friends celebrate different years like "The Year of the Pig," or "The Year of the Dragon"? Well, for mighty Marvel, 1992 has most definitely been "The Year of the Spider," and what a great year it's been! Spider-Man's thirtieth anniversary has kept our whole blushing bullpen busy with special Hologram-Cover Issues, Spidey Conventions, Web-Slinger Parties and all sorts of arachnid-inspired fun 'n games!

Another, more subtle way that we've been celebrating everyone's favorite wall-crawler has been by introducing famous Marvel guest stars in Spidey's syndicated newspaper strip. Those of you who are lucky enough to have Spidey's daily strip in your local newspaper's comic section, have already seen the current episode which is just now zooming to a cataclysmic conclusion, the one featuring the ever dazzling and delightful Dr. Strange!

Well, here's a really sensational follow-up to the Spidey/Dr. Strange adventure. Starting sometime in October, the peripatetic Peter Parker will welcome another guest star to what is arguably the most popular newspaper story-strip in all the world — Daredevil, the Man Without Fear! This will be Matt Murdock's first appearance in any newspaper and I can promise you it'll be a zingeroo! Can't tell you much without spoiling the surprises for you — but I can clue you in about some new artists coming on board!

**Floro Dery**, who has so brilliantly illustrated the Spidey Sunday pages for the past decade or so, has been forced to give up his chores because of an increased work load at the animation studio which is his home base. Although I was genuinely sorry to bid Floro adieu, wait'll you hear who his exciting replacements will be!

To pencil Spidey's Sunday pages, we were lucky to grab Rampagin' **Ron Frenz**, the demon illustrator who, together with the scripting of Titanic **Tom DeFalco**, has made MIGHTY THOR one of Marvel's most consistent "must read" titles issue after issue! And, to ink Ron's awesome panels, we managed to lure one of Marvel's all-time greats out of semi-retirement — which means that the world once again will thrill to the exotic embellishments of the titanically talented Joltin' **Joe Sinnott**!

So, Ron and Joe now join forces with comicdom's own legendary **Larry Lieber**, who has been so pandemoniously penciling and inking Spidey's daily pages for lo these many years, to form the most spectacular art team on any newspaper page! It's all yours, for free, in your local newspaper! (And if your paper is one of the few that doesn't carry **The Amazing Spider-Man**, never underestimate the power of a letter to the editor!)

Now, until Spidey's next anniversary — Larry, Ron, Joe, and I urge thee most humbly — Keep Thy Webs Untangled!

Excelsior!

Stan Lee

## THE BULL'S EYE

*by Rick Parker & Barry Dutter*

When we think of October, we think of those scary people who put on masks, play tricks, and try to frighten everyone. That's right, we're talking about *politicians*! This is the time of year when politicos are plentiful, frightening even Red Ghosts, Scarlet Witches, and Hobgoblins! As every Marveloid knows, we're just weeks away from the funniest holiday of the year — **Election Day!**

In his very first appearance, the Amazing Spider-Man learned that with great power must come great responsibility. Well, every Marveloid out there over the age of 18 has great power, too — the power to *vote*! This is a responsibility many of us take for granted if at all. Think about it — we actually have the opportunity to help decide who will hold the most important position in the nation! Why not exercise some of your great responsibility that comes with the great power to vote? To register, call your municipal government office or the local chapter of the League of Woman Voters.

From the presidential race we move on to a footrace, as we track Marvel's standings in the 1992 Corporate Challenge. The Corporate Challenge is a series of 3 1/2-mile races held every June, in which companies all over New York compete to see who has the fastest workaholics. The big winner for Marvel this year was **Danny** "Speedy" **Gonzalez**, who finished one of the races in just 21 minutes. Other Marvel Quicksilvers were **Bernadette Ayala** of the Manufacturing Department, **Mary Sprowls** of the Finance Department, and editors **Don** (PUNISHER) **Daley** and **Glenn** (NOMAD) **Herdling**. The apres-race parties held at the Senior Exec Ed's place were also a runaway success!

The Marvel softball season is also racing to a close as we write this. We all must have had our catcher's masks on in June (not to mention our hitter's masks and our outfielder's masks), because we had a three-game winning streak, including a victory over *Billboard* magazine — a team which we had never before beaten in Marvel history! We wore the masks of tragedy, however, as DC trick-or-treated us to a loss in our second game against their squadron of all-stars. The DC/Marvel retro-rivalry is now tied at one game apiece, with one more left to play between the two companies.

One thing is for sure — the ultra-athletic DC team sure knows how to get the most out of a bat! (Maybe it would help our chances if we all wore Adam West masks!)

Bullpen neo-cartoonist **Rick Parker** and assistant editor **Barry Dutter** have good reason to throw a masquerade party this month! Ricko the Sicko and "Big" Barry have a hyper-funny book of cartoons coming out. The book is called *Everything I Really Need to Know I Learned from Television*, and is on sale in bookstores all across America. (By a strange coincidence, that same creative team is also responsible for the cartoon that appears each month on this very page!) It's the perfect reading material for All Hallow's Eve! It will help you laugh away all your fears!

If you *really* want to treat your neighborhood monsters, don't give them candy this Halloween — give them the all-new Marvel Masterpiece trading cards! This 100 card set features all your favorite heroes and villains, beautifully painted by Joe Jusko. Each card is a true work of art! And if your preference is for pictures that *move*, we'd also like to mention that the Marvel Video Cassette *Pryde of the X-Men* is now available at video retailers everywhere. Get a copy now and receive a $5 refund on other videos in MCV's catalog. No tricks here — just plenty of treats for everyone!

Till next time, remember, though Halloween comes but once a year, Marvel heroes wear masks and colorful costumes all year long! See you at the polls!

CLEAN ROOMS PROVIDENCE PRECEDENT THE FINAL CUT 12-STEP PROGRAM RUBBER POETRY SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM ELITISM CONFIDENCE CRISIS DEFENSE MECHANISM
CRIMINALS HOT-9 EX-LOVERS CONVERSION EXPERIENCES ROCHE'S LIMIT DIACHRONIC COUPLES IN YOUR FACE UNPLUGGED ROCK STARS LUSTRATION CLINICAL DETACHMENT SOUND BITES PERCEIVED VALUE
ACCENTS BIODIVERSITY ESCAPE CLAUSES OLYMPIC BULLPEN BORDERLINE BLATHER TRIPLECASTS FASHION STATEMENTS QUALITY-OF-LIFE

NO!
Y-YOU CAN'T DO THIS! YOU CAN'T JUST KILL THEM!
YOU ALL KNOW... BETTER THAN ANYONE... WHAT I'VE BEEN THROUGH. THE SUFFERING--! I WAS LOST...
AND THIS WOMAN... THIS WOMAN REACHED OUT TO ME... REACHED INTO THE FIRE... AND DARED TO SHOW ME THE WAY TO FREEDOM.
AND SPIDER-MAN? HE HAD EVERY RIGHT TO HATE ME... HATE VERMIN ... BUT HE DIDN'T.
HE CARED. IF IT WASN'T FOR HIM, I'D STILL BE IN... IN SOME SEWER SOMEWHERE... EATING... EATING HUMAN FLESH. I'D--
DON'T YOU SEE? THE VERY FACT THAT I'M STANDING HERE TALKING TO YOU LIKE THIS... IS PROOF OF WHAT THEY'VE DONE!
PROOF OF WHAT CAN BE DONE FOR YOU!
YOU WANT TO KILL THEM ... YOU CAN. I DOUBT IF EVEN VERMIN COULD STOP ALL OF YOU.
BUT, BELIEVE ME... IF THEY DIE--
--HOPE DIES WITH THEM.

For all my talk about Edward being close to a cure, there was a part of me (and it's still hard for me to admit this) that doubted it; that thought Vermin would ultimately rise up and destroy Edward.
IF... I'D HEARD THOSE WORDS FROM ANYONE ELSE... I WOULDN'T HAVE BELIEVED THEM.
BUT OUR HEARTS, OUR MINDS, REALLY ARE ONE. YOU CAN'T LIE TO US... YOU CAN'T DECEIVE US.
But, that night, hearing the power in his voice, seeing the pride in his eyes, I knew -- once and for all...
...that he'd truly been reborn.
I BELIEVE YOU, VERMIN... EDWARD.
WE BELIEVE YOU.
Vermin was dead...
WE BELIEVE YOU.
...and nothing -- no one -- could bring him back --
MY SPIDER-SENSE!
SOMETHING'S WRONG! SOMETHING'S --
FRATC
HHH
...except, perhaps...

...the devil himself.
GUTEN ABENDS,
MY NAME IS HELMUT ZEMO--
...AND I HAVE COME TO RE-CLAIM MY PROPERTY.
E-EDWARD... IS THAT REALLY--?
IT'S HIM!
OH, MY SWEET LORD--
--IT'S HIM!!
That face: no more hideous, no more disfigured than many of the mutates; yet something in it terrified me, shook me...
...to the bottom of my soul.
WHY, YOU MURDERING--!
FRA KKK
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR GAME IS, ZEMO--
--BUT I'M ENDING IT--
--RIGHT--
--NOW!

Terrified.
SPIDER-MAN!
I WOULD HAVE ASSUMED CAPTAIN AMERICA WOULD BE HERE. AFTER ALL, HE'S THE ONE WHO'S CONSTANTLY ANNOYING ME...ALWAYS GETTING IN MY WAY.
BUT ONE MASKED MORON IS AS GOOD AS THE NEXT, I SUPPOSE.
YOU SEEM AWFULLY RELAXED FOR SOMEONE WHO'S ABOUT TO GET HIS FACE POUNDED IN.
I SERIOUSLY DOUBT IF YOU COULD DO ANY MORE DAMAGE TO MY FACE THAN WHAT'S ALREADY BEEN DONE. IN FACT--
--I DOUBT IF YOU CAN DO ME ANY DAMAGE AT ALL.
Shaken.
I DON'T THINK MY LOYAL PETS WOULD ALLOW IT.
VERMIN...?
VERMIN--?!
YESSS... MASSSTER...?
IF SPIDER-MAN DOESN'T RELEASE ME IN PRECISELY FIVE SECONDS--
--EAT THE WOMAN ALIVE.
WITH PLEASURE... MASSSTER.
To the bottom of my soul.
The DEATH of VERMIN concludes next issue!